

# THE YAKIMA GREENWAY

Vol. 21 No. 1

Winter 2005

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## Greenway Foundation Annual Meeting 2005

At the January 24 Annual Meeting of the Membership, four new board members were elected and welcomed to the Greenway Board of Directors. Elected to the board were Armand Doucette, Garry Heilman, Kevin Roy, and Don Skone. This class of 2005 comes to the Board of Directors with a variety of expertise and are ready to roll up their sleeves and get to work.

Brendan Monahan was elected President, Briant Blount as Vice President, Pam Cleaver as Secretary, and Tony Sagare as Treasurer. Rounding out the Executive Board are Michael Buchanan, Ronda Ide, Gary Johnson, and Immediate Past President Bob DiPietro.

It is hard to say goodbye to our departing Board members. Retiring from the Board are Jim Sackmann and Nona Schulz. Both have been extraordinarily dedicated to the Greenway and they will be missed.

Awarded as "Points of Light" for 2004 were Rosemary Thomas and Pres Tuesley. This award is given to inspirational volunteers for their service and dedication to the Greenway. Rosemary has "retired" from the Greenway and moved out of town after several years of working with our membership database and Gap2Gap. She worked full time each spring handling all the data entry for Gap2Gap. She will be missed! Pres has been involved in the project of creating a new computer program to use to store information and calculate Gap2Gap results. The program was fully operational in 2004 and provides us with a PC-based interface that reflects recent changes in the race. Heartfelt thanks go out to these two for sharing their time, talents, and energy.



Pres Tuesley is presented with the Point of Light Award



Incoming VP Brian Blount thanks Bob DiPietro for his year of service as Greenway President

## Volunteer of the Year

Volunteer of the Year for 2004 is Melanie Brown. After chairing the water leg of the Junior



Gap2Gap for several years, she took on the job of event chair in 2003. In addition to this demanding job, she can be found helping with A Case of the Blues & All That Jazz, assisting with meetings, and stepping in wherever she's needed. We have come to depend

on her presence and appreciate all her hard work!

## Volunteer of the Quarter

Volunteer of the Quarter for the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter is Nona Schulz. Nona has been a member of the Greenway Foundation Board of Directors for the past seven years, the last two serving as president and past president. This past spring and summer, she spent a good deal of time in the dirt, planting grass and weeding at the Frank Frederick Wayside. The habitat restoration and planting of native grasses at the wayside is very labor-intensive and Nona has been there for all of it. She also continues to help us with planning A Case of the Blues & All That Jazz.



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# President's Message - Greenway 2005 - Celebrate & Rejuvenate

I once heard that the success of charitable organizations is dependent upon a steady supply of people who have no idea what they're getting into. Which makes me wonder why Bob DiPietro looked so smug and cheerful when he handed me the president's gavel at the turn of the new year.

Can it already be 2005? Unbelievable. And what a big year it promises to be.

As most of you know, the Yakima River Greenway Foundation was formed in 1980 by a group of local citizens who were determined to turn a junk heap into the jewel of the community. The organization's founders and a succession of tireless leaders have done a phenomenal job of fulfilling their mission to conserve, enhance and maintain the Greenway as a continuing living resource for future generations.

For those of you doing the math at home, 2005 marks our 25<sup>th</sup>

Anniversary. That's twenty-five remarkable years that have literally transformed the face of our community, with a beautiful sequence of pathways and parks stretching from Selah Gap to Union Gap, and west along the Naches River.

And all of it, including miles of paved pathway, family parks, river access landings, nature trails, fishing lakes, and protected natural areas, was made possible by our tremendously generous supporters. You have all reliably stepped up over the years, and you've made it possible to make the founders' vision a reality.

Now it's time to celebrate our accomplishments and to give a hearty

"thankyou" to a generation of Greenway visionaries and leaders. It is also (and you knew this was coming) time for us to roll up our sleeves and make sure that the next generation can enjoy the tremendous gift of the Greenway. We are planning several fantastic events to commemorate our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and to also focus on the next 25 years. I told you it was a big year.

Look for 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events throughout the year, starting with \$2.50 hot dog day (Al's idea), and culminating in a beautiful black-tie gala/fundraiser in October. Watch these newsletters for more information about dates and times. I look forward to working (and celebrating) with all of you!

**- Brendan Monahan  
2005 Greenway President**



## A Message from the Executive Director

### **Greenway purchases property**

With funding assistance from the State of Washington's Interagency Committee on Outdoor Recreation's Salmon Recovery Fund, the Greenway just closed on the purchase of 40 acres of riparian property.

Located at the southern end of the Yakima Reach, the property lies between a 100-acre parcel already owned by the Greenway to the north and Century Landing to the south. The property is in the floodway of the Yakima River and is bisected by the main channel and several side channels.

Virtually inaccessible other than by water, the property is home to a wide variety of wildlife, including deer, beaver, otter, hawks, quail, geese,

ducks and herons. The side channels provide valuable resting-places for salmon on their journey to and from the Pacific Ocean. Any future use of the property will be limited by the restrictive covenant that the property be utilized for salmon habitat, first and foremost.

### **Greenway maintenance crew stays busy in winter**

I have been asked several times, "What do park maintenance people do during the winter?" While not nearly as busy as the warmer months when we hire seasonal employees to help, the winter months are nonetheless a busy time for the crew.

Besides removing snow from parking lots and paths, they are busy with equipment maintenance, refurbishing

picnic tables, trimming brush and trees, and generally completing all those little tasks that seem to get set aside during the summer. In addition, there are still over 100 garbage cans that need to be checked and emptied, restrooms to be cleaned and painted, and yes, even litter to pick up.

**- Al Brown  
Executive Director**

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# Looking Ahead...2005 Event Preview

## **E.A.G.L.E. Earth Day**

Learning about our environment is a complex and lifelong process, and the Yakima Greenway strives to help area students with this aspect of their education. 2005 will mark the 17<sup>th</sup> annual E.A.G.L.E. (Environmental Awareness Greenway Led Education) Earth Day. During those years, the Greenway has enabled a diverse variety of organizations to share their environmental messages with our area's youngsters. E.A.G.L.E. was developed in the Spring of 1989 as an opportunity for Yakima County students to learn about the world around them. The program's goals are to promote skills and attitudes that will enhance knowledge of the natural environment and to reduce our future rate of vandalism by investing our young citizens with a sense of ownership and pride in the Greenway.

This year, E.A.G.L.E. Earth Day will be held Friday, April 22. We anticipate a dozen exhibitors, plus highly acclaimed entertainers *Buck and Elizabeth* will provide song and dance during the lunch hour. Classrooms and home school families in grades K-6 are invited to join us for a fun-filled day of learning in Sarg Hubbard Park.

## **Volunteers Needed**

Volunteer help is indispensable in staging our fundraising events. If you would like to volunteer, or for more information about any event, please call the Greenway office at 453-8280.

## **Gap2Gap**

Don't miss Gap2Gap weekend on June 3-4! Starting with the pasta feed Friday, June 3, through the Junior Gap2Gap and Gap2Gap relays, the Family Festival, and Rock the Gap Saturday, June 4, there is something for athletes and non-athletes alike.

Gather a group of friends or co-workers, or take the Iron challenge in the Gap2Gap Relay. The relay is comprised of a field (cross-country) run, mountain bike, kayak/canoe, road bike, and 10K run legs. The shorter Sport course has an inline skate leg in lieu of the water leg, a shorter mountain bike leg, and a 5K run.

The Junior Gap2Gap is a five-stage relay for kids 8-14. Teams made up of 2-5 kids (or solo 11-14 year olds) navigate an obstacle course, rollerblade, paddle in Reflection Pond, bike, and run. There will be prizes awarded to the top teams in each category and all participants will receive a Junior Gap2Gap t-shirt. This kids' race has grown by leaps and bounds the past couple of years; bring your kids out to be part of the fun.

Registration packets will be available in April from the Greenway office and at local gyms and sporting goods stores.

## **A Case of the Blues & All That Jazz**

It's Island Style this year...Don't miss A Case of the Blues & All That Jazz on August 20! This event, featuring the very best in blues and jazz music, award-winning local wines and microbrews, a delicious array of foods and desserts, and a silent auction, is a summer classic in Yakima. Plans for this year's event are already in progress, and it promises to be a fabulous time for everyone. Tickets will be on sale in April; VIP tables are also available and on sale now.

## **Construction Project to Impact the Greenway**

As the Washington State Department of Transportation enters the construction phase of a complete rebuild of Highway 24 from 18<sup>th</sup> Street to Keyes Road, the Greenway pathway and Robertson Landing parking lot will be impacted by construction. Part of this project will be to construct a new, much longer and higher bridge across the Yakima River.

During construction, the continuity of the pathway will be severed at that point. Starting later this year and scheduled to last 18 months, this multi-million dollar project will not only relieve traffic congestion and replace an existing substandard bridge, the new bridge will have a bicycle and pedestrian lane added to it. It will be a short-term inconvenience with a long-term improvement to both vehicle and non-motorized traffic as well as set the stage for improvements to riparian habitat.

# Membership Report

10/16/04-1/15/05



## Thank you to our renewing members:

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10/16/04 to 1/15/05

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10/16/04 to 1/15/05

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**In memory of Lowell Roberts, DVM**

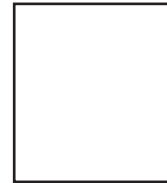
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